

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A method for remotely managing Digital Imaging Communications in Medicine (DICOM) image data for non-radiological medical apparatus incompatible with the DICOM format used for capturing images of the inside of a human body and generating medical image signals, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) establishing a digital conversion device and connecting said digital conversion device to said non-radiological medical apparatus;

(b) converting said medical image signals from said non-radiological medical apparatus incompatible with DICOM format into digital image data complying with the DICOM format within said digital conversion device;

(c) establishing at least a remote device and connecting said remote device to said digital conversion device for remotely accessing the non-radiological medical apparatus therethrough;

(d) said remote device executing a remote control program to generate at least one DICOM control command and sending at least a said DICOM control command to said digital conversion device; and

(e) controlling said digital conversion device responsive to said DICOM control command to selectively actuate the perform capture, storage, and ~~or~~ transmission of said digital image data from said non-radiological medical apparatus which is incompatible with the DICOM format.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The method for remotely managing DICOM image data for non-radiological medical apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said non-radiological medical apparatus is an ultrasound unit, an endoscope, or an intraoral camera.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The method for remotely managing DICOM image data for non-radiological medical apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said digital conversion device in said Step (a) has an image capturing unit and a storage unit therein, and said image capturing unit is used to capture said medical image signals, convert said medical image signals into digital image data that comply with the DICOM format, and store said digital image data into said storage unit.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The method for remotely managing DICOM image data for non-radiological medical apparatus as claimed in claim 8 further comprising, before said Step (c), the following steps:

building a server and connecting said server to said digital conversion device; and

connecting said remote device to said server and then to said digital conversion device via said server.

Claim 12. (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Previously presented) The method for remotely managing DICOM image data for non-radiological medical apparatus as claimed in claim 8 further comprising, after said Step (d), the following step:

said remote device executing a communication program to perform control communication with said digital conversion device so as to control said digital conversion device for performing capture, storage or transmission of said digital image data.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The method for remotely managing DICOM image data for non-radiological medical apparatus as claimed in claim 8 further comprising, after said Step (e), the following steps:

storing said digital image data into said remote device; and
sending said digital image data to said remote device.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A device for remotely managing Digital Imaging Communications in Medicine (DICOM) image data, said device comprising:

at least a non-radiological medical apparatus incompatible with the DICOM format, said non-radiological medical apparatus used for taking internal images of a human body and generating medical image signals;

a digital conversion device comprises an image capturing unit, said image capturing unit connected to said non-radiological medical apparatus for converting said medical image signals from said non-radiological medical apparatus incompatible with said DICOM format into DICOM digital image data;

a server connected to said digital conversion device for receiving said DICOM compatible format digital image data, wherein said server comprises a program storage unit storing at least a communication program, said communication program being used to perform control communication with said digital conversion device for controlling capture, storage or transmission of said digital image data;

an image storage database connected to said server and used to store said digital image data; and

at least a remote device connected to said server and operable to generate ~~capable of generating~~ at least a DICOM control command to control said non-radiological medical apparatus via said server and said digital conversion device for ~~performing~~ selectively actuating the capture, storage, and ~~or~~ transmission of said digital image data.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) The device for remotely managing DICOM image data as claimed in claim 15, wherein said non-radiological medical apparatus is an ultrasound unit, an endoscope, or an intraoral camera.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The device for remotely managing DICOM image data as claimed in claim 15, wherein said digital conversion device further comprises:

~~an image capturing unit connected to said non-radiological medical apparatus and used to capture said medical image signals and convert said medical image signals into digital image data conforming to the DICOM format;~~

a storage unit connected to said image capturing unit and used to store said digital image data; and

a network interface unit connected to said image capturing unit and capable of connecting to said server via a network to send said digital image data to said server.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The device for remotely managing DICOM image data as claimed in claim 15, wherein said server comprises:

~~a program storage unit storing at least a communication program, said communication program being used to perform control communication with said digital conversion device for controlling capture, storage or transmission of said digital image data;~~

a processing unit connected to said program storage unit and used to execute said communication program to perform control communication with said non-radiological medical apparatus; and

a network interface unit connected to said processing unit and capable of connecting to said digital conversion device and said remote device via a network for receiving or transmitting said digital image data.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The device for remotely managing DICOM image data as claimed in claim 15, wherein said remote device at least comprises:

a memory unit for storing at least a remote control program;

a processing unit connected to said memory unit and used to execute said remote control program for generating at least a DICOM control command;

a network interface unit connected to said processing unit and capable of connecting to said server via a network and transmitting said DICOM control command to said server or receiving said digital image data; and

a display unit connected to said processing unit and used to display said digital image data.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A Digital Imaging Communications in Medicine (DICOM) digital conversion device connecting to non-radiological medical apparatus incompatible with DICOM, said non-radiological medical apparatus used for taking internal images of a human body and generating formatted medical image signals incompatible with DICOM, said device comprising:

an image capturing unit connected to said non-radiological medical apparatus operable to capture said non-DICOM format medical image signals and convert said non-DICOM format medical image signals into digital image data conforming to the DICOM format;

a storage unit connected to said image capturing unit for storing said digital image data; and

a network interface unit connected to said image capturing unit for transferring said digital image data via a network to at least one remote device responsive to actuation thereby, and for controlling said medical apparatus to capture internal cross-sectional images of the human body responsive to selective actuation thereby.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a display unit connected to said image capturing unit for displaying said digital image data.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a medium duplicating unit for duplicating said digital image data stored in the storage unit into a medium format.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 21, further comprising an operation interface unit for connecting input devices for controlling said digital conversion device.

Claim 25. (New) The method for remotely managing DICOM image data for non-radiological medical apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein a plurality of said non-radiological medical apparatuses of different type are selectively

actuable for the capture, storage, and transmission of said digital image data responsive to said remote device.

Claim 26. (New) The device for remotely managing DICOM image data as claimed in claim 15, comprising a plurality of non-radiological medical apparatuses of different type.